



AMBASSADORS FUND FOR CULTURAL PRESERVATION: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Embassy Morocco and the Cultural Heritage Center of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State are pleased to announce the 2016 call for proposals for the **Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) Competition**.

The AFCP-supported projects for Morocco include the restoration of ancient and historic buildings, assessment and conservation of rare manuscripts and museum collections, preservation and protection of important archaeological sites, and the documentation of vanishing traditional craft techniques of the cultural heritage of Morocco.

The AFCP program was established by the United States Congress in 2001. AFCP was developed to support countries in preserving their cultural heritage and to demonstrate U.S. respect for other cultures. To date, the Ambassadors Fund has supported more than 550 projects worldwide, totaling more than \$20 million. The AFCP supports the preservation of cultural sites, cultural objects, and forms of traditional cultural expression in more than 100 developing countries around the world.

All Moroccan non-governmental organizations, museums or similar institutions and organizations that would like to submit proposals for the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation should review carefully the following key points before submitting.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

AFCP Program gives priority to project activities in adherence to the following guidelines and to international standards for the preservation of cultural heritage. These activities may include:

- **Cultural Sites**, restoration of a historic buildings and sites, sacred places, monuments, and archaeological sites or documentation of cultural sites in a region for preservation purposes.
- **Cultural Objects and Collections**, conservation activities; conservation treatment for an object or collection of objects; needs assessment of a collection with respect to its condition and strategies for improving its state of conservation; inventory of a collection for conservation and protection purposes; the creation of safe environments for storage or display of collections; or specialized training in the care and preservation of collections.
- **Forms of Traditional Cultural Expression**, documentation and audiovisual recording of traditional music and dance forms for preservation and eventual dissemination, or support for training in the preservation of traditional arts or crafts in danger of extinction.

IMPORTANT NOTES AND RESTRICTIONS:

Proposals for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria will receive special consideration:

- A. Directly support U.S. treaty or bilateral agreement obligations, such as cultural property protection agreements;
- B. Strengthen capacity in country to preserve and protect cultural heritage;
- C. Support the preservation of inscribed World Heritage sites;
- D. Advance long-term cultural preservation objectives, lay the groundwork for subsequent AFCP-supported activities, or encourage the continued or expanded application of proven methods at the project site or elsewhere; and
- E. Engage women, youth, or under-served communities.

The AFCP Program will **NOT** support the following activities or costs, and applications involving any of the activities or costs below will be deemed ineligible:

- A. Preservation or purchase of privately or commercially owned cultural objects, collections, or real property, including those whose transfer from private or commercial to public ownership is envisioned, planned, or in process but not complete at the time of application;
- B. Preservation of natural heritage (physical, biological, and geological formations, paleontological collections, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, fossils, etc.);
- C. Preservation of hominid or human remains;
- D. Preservation of news media (newspapers, newsreels, radio and TV programs, etc.);
- E. Preservation of published materials available elsewhere (books, periodicals, etc.);
- F. Development of curricula or educational materials for classroom use;
- G. Archaeological excavations or exploratory surveys for research purposes;
- H. Historical research, except in cases where the research is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
- I. Acquisition or creation of new exhibits, objects, or collections for new or existing museums;
- J. Construction of new buildings, building additions, or permanent coverings (over archaeological sites, for example);
- K. Commissions of new works of art or architecture for commemorative or economic development purposes;
- L. Creation of new or the modern adaptation of existing traditional dances, songs, chants, musical compositions, plays, or other performances;
- M. Creation of replicas or conjectural reconstructions of cultural objects or sites that no longer exist;
- N. Relocation of cultural sites from one physical location to another;
- O. Removal of cultural objects or elements of cultural sites from the country for any reason;
- P. Digitization of cultural objects or collections, unless part of a larger, clearly defined conservation or documentation effort;
- Q. Conservation plans or other studies, unless they are one component of a larger project to implement the results of those studies;
- R. Cash reserves, endowments, or revolving funds (funds must be expended within the award period [up to five years] and may not be used to create an endowment or revolving fund);
- S. Costs of fund-raising campaigns;
- T. Contingency, unforeseen, or miscellaneous costs or fees;

- U.** Costs of work performed prior to announcement of the award unless allowable per 2 CFR 200.458 and approved by the grants officer;
- V.** International travel, except in cases where travel is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;
- W.** Travel or study outside the host country for professional development;
- X.** Individual projects costing less than \$10,000;
- Y.** Independent U.S. projects overseas.

INELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS: AFCP does not award grants to individuals, commercial entities, or to embassies or past award recipients which have not fulfilled the objectives or reporting requirements of previous AFCP awards.

AWARD INFORMATION

The funding will take the form of a grant. The lowest amount per project will be \$10,000; the highest ceiling will be \$200,000 per project. In 2015, awards ranged from \$32,500 to \$200,000.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Project proposals must include or address the following:

- Project Basics**, including title, project dates, project focus area, and other top-level information;
- Project Applicant information**, including full contact information; Information about the organization that will do the work and about the people involved (contact person, project director, address, phone, cellular phone, fax, email, and website);
- Project Location**; Describe the nature of the location of the project;
- Proof of Official Permission** to undertake the project - a letter from the local/national authority responsible for the site or resource indicating that the prospective grantee has the support of that authority, and permission to undertake the project.
- Project Purpose** that briefly explains the project objectives and desired results; What are the objectives of the project? In a brief summary: What is the nature of the cultural resource, what is the problem; and what is the intended result?
- Project Activities Description** that explains how the applicant intends to achieve the project objectives and results, presents proposed tasks in a logical order, and describes how those tasks directly contribute towards achieving the project objectives and results;
- Project Time Frame or Schedule** that identifies the major project phases and milestones, with performance target dates for achieving them (NOTE: Applicants may propose project performance periods of up to 60 months [five years] with five budget periods of one year each; projects must begin before September 30, 2016, and conclude no later than September 30, 2021);
- Project Participant Information**, specifically an estimated number of non-US and US participants and estimated number of primary and secondary participants, as well as resumes of the proposed project director and other primary project participants, which demonstrate that the applying entity has assembled the requisite experience and the capacity to carry out projects to preserve cultural heritage;
- Statement of Importance** highlighting the historic, architectural, artistic, or cultural (non-religious) values of the cultural site, object, collection, or form of traditional expression;
- Statement of Urgency** indicating the severity of the situation and explaining why the project must take place now (e.g., imminent physical collapse, damage from insect infestation, improper storage, loss of a cultural tradition, etc.);

Statement of Sustainability outlining the steps or measures that will be taken to maintain the site, object, or collection in good condition after the AFCP-supported project is complete; or, in the case of forms of traditional cultural expression, to preserve and disseminate the documentation, knowledge, or skills either resulting or gained from the project;

Detailed project narrative and budget, demarcated in one-year budget periods (2016, 2017, etc.), that lists all costs in separate categories (Personnel, Fringe Benefits, Travel [including Per Diem], Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other Direct Costs, Cost Sharing); indicates funds from other sources; and gives a justification for any anticipated international travel costs; and explaining line by line how costs are estimated (quantity x unit cost, annual salary x percentage of time spent on project, etc.) and unique budget line items; These may include but not limited to:

- Salaries/Expert or Consultant Fees - Involved staff (provide name, position, and task); for Task (Specify whether he/she is a conservator, mason, speaker, etc.)...
- Travel - Specify who, where, how long, and why...
- Materials & Supplies - Estimate the amount and cost of materials needed for the project..
- Equipment - Justify the need to buy equipment in budget narrative, and the costs of each..
- Administrative Cost (phone, fax, postage, freight, photocopying, printing, etc... list all details)..

Attachments and supporting documents including, at a minimum and REQUIRED, five (5) high quality digital images (JPEGs) or audiovisual files that convey the nature and condition of the site, object, or form of expression and, in the case of a site or object, show the urgency or need for the proposed project (collapsing wall, water damage, worn fabric, broken handle, etc), any historic structure reports, conservation needs assessments, and other planning documents compiled in preparation for the proposed project;

The AFCP Program encourages cost sharing, in-kind contributions, and other forms of cost participation from sources such as governments, international organizations, and the private sector. There is no minimum or maximum percentage of cost participation required for this competition. When cost sharing is offered, it is understood and agreed that the applicant must provide the amount of cost sharing as stipulated in its proposal and later included in an approved agreement.

APPLICATION SCREENING CRITERIA

The U.S. Embassy will first screen all proposals for technical eligibility based on the criteria's mentioned above.

The Embassy will then rate all applications based on program funding priorities: the quality, soundness, and comprehensiveness of the proposed project and budget, the quality and quantity of supporting materials, such as resumes of the key project participants, images of the resource, and notices of official permission from the responsible resource steward, such as a ministry of culture...etc.

The proposals are subsequently presented and evaluated by a jury-panel based in Washington. Donations awards are announced in the spring 2016.

PREVIOUS PROJECTS REALIZED THRU AFCP FUNDS IN MOROCCO

- Restoration of the west rampart of Ksar Seghir archaeological site.
- Restoration of 17th- and 18th-Century Monuments in the Kasbah of Mehdiya.
- Restoration of 18th-Century Cemeteries in Essaouira.
- Preservation of Collective Granaries in the Atlas Mountains.

- Preservation of the 11th-Century Hammam in Aghmat.
- Documentation of Traditional Music of Moroccan Berber Women
- Restoration of Central Squares and Fountains in the Medina of Tangiers.

SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for submitting a proposal in English is **Friday, December 25, 2015**. **Proposal must be submitted in English in electronic format to the following email address: rabatgrants@state.gov** (with the subject: Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation 2016).

The main project proposal document should be in **word format** but attachments can be sent in either jpeg and/or pdf.

CONTACT

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